

# DUBLIN/DARLINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

April 21, 2010

## Draft MINUTES

### Wilson Community Center

**Members Present:** Rich Norling, Chairman  
Charles Day, Vice Chairman  
Jane Howe, Secretary  
Gerry Kunkel  
Jim Murphy  
Joni Nugent  
Don Thomas  
Alan Thompson  
Shirley Thompson

**Guests:** Billy Boniface  
Erin Ferriter  
Wayne Norman  
Jenn Phelps  
Bob Riley  
Chad Shrodes  
Sgt. Kevin Thomas

Rich Norling called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

**Review of Minutes:** Alan Thompson made a motion to accept both the February and March 2010 minutes. Charles Day seconded the motion. Passed.

### Government Updates:

**Sgt. Kevin Thomas** presented the Sheriff's Office crime stats for March 2010. See attachment for more detail.

Total calls for Harford County – 13,131 in 3/2010 up from 13,054 in 3/2009

			Dayshift 8am-4pm	Evening 4pm-12am	Midnight 12am-8am
Sector 100	March 2010	981	33%	21%	46%
	March 2009	852			
Sector 90	March 2010	754	30%	28%	42%
	March 2009	742			
Sector 60	March 2010	311	49%	32%	19%
	March 2009	339			

Sgt. Thomas reported that there were 2 assaults, 9 burglaries and one motor vehicle theft in Sector 100 in March. The current trend is for thieves to go through subdivisions looking for unlocked cars. PLEASE LOCK YOUR CAR.

**Billy Boniface, Harford County Council President**, reported on the FY11 budgeting process and said there is no tax increase, lay-offs or furloughs. Except for projects already in the pipeline, and projects that stood to lose matching funds, capital projects are on hold. The feasibility study (\$56,000) for expansion of the Darlington library has been postponed to 2012. The Department of Health funding has been cut by 45%. The library system and environmental services are OK. The \$1.7 million dollar reduction to the Sheriff's Office is offset by the retirement package. But the fleet has not been replaced in two years. The Board of Education approved funding for the Ag Magnet program at North Harford HS.

Reporting for Barry Glassman, Billy said the speed limit is still 30mph on Main Street. Signage recommending 25mph is there but not enforceable. The Scenic Byways program looks to maintain beauty of our local roads, but has the same problems with who sets the speed limits.

**Wayne Norman, Delegate District 35-A**, stated that it was a loooong 90 days. He was pleasantly surprised at how many Harford County people came to Annapolis to testify. He said he took Barry Glassman's place on the

Environmental Matters Committee and, aside from some federal funding for the Chesapeake Bay; there is just enough money to stay even. The Harford County Delegation voted against the budget. He says there is no long term fix in the process and the State is too dependent on federal money. He predicted a tax increase will be necessary next year to prevent a cut in services. Project Open Space and stimulus monies are spent down. There is no money for Harford County capital projects. These topics were brought up in the discussion that followed: The slots bill would have benefitted both Harford County and the local VFW; the Tea Party was effective in campaigning for a change in property tax assessments; everything is done on the internet because it can move quickly to keep up with pending legislation.

**Guest Speaker: Jenn Phelps, Harford County Community Services**

Jenn presented the draft copy of the FY 2011 Annual Action Plan. She explained that the county government is required to produce an Annual Action Plan in conjunction with the Five Year Consolidated Plan to qualify for federal money from HUD, HOME and CDBG. Two copies of the annual plan are in each library and the plan is available online. (I could only find the FY10 plan online and it wasn't easy to find) The public comment time runs from April 8 to May 10. (how does anyone know this?) The current draft document is based on Census 2000 numbers. Both Darlington and Dublin have low/mod census tracts. The final document is due to HUD by May 18 for funding on July 1. Annual allocations are restricted to low to moderate income clients and are used to create jobs and housing. For example, funding went to the Community Action Agency for emergency energy assistance so people could stay in their homes. Funding went to Harford Habitat for Humanity to buy and rehab foreclosed properties. Jenn added that Community Services distributes small grants-in-aid to local nonprofits every year for operating costs. The RFP will go out in October.

**Guest Speaker: Erin Ferriter, Harford County Administration Office, Environmental Stewardship Initiatives**

Erin reported that she is brand new on the job and nothing is formal yet. She is currently collecting data on energy usage by Harford County Government, including water, electric and other fuels. The County got \$2.1 million in stimulus funding. She is collecting data to establish base line usage which will lead to recommendation for a decrease in consumption. For now, the data collection is internal. But she said the County needs to "walk the walk" before they can "talk the talk" and ask others to implement their own energy audit. Rich Norling commented that he is involved in a similar process for the State of Maryland. Project Sunburst, a program of the MEA, will announce winners of photovoltaic systems tomorrow. Erin said that HCPS did apply. Erin represents Harford County on the Baltimore Metropolitan Council and stated that Harford County is the first to register as a total county for self certification on the Maryland Green Registry. In the discussion that followed, Erin said that she is gleaning information from data files. Department heads are not yet part of the process. She is researching LEED certification vs. LEED equivalent as it applies to building standards.

**Chad Shrodes, Councilman District D,** reported that next Friday is the deadline for amendments to the Historic Preservation Element Plan. He also brought hard copy of the amendments to the Transportation Element. He commented that tax credits are needed for commercial real estate as much as for home owners.

**Updates:**

1. **Aberdeen Water Permit** – Nothing new.
2. **LNG Pipeline** – A strategy session was held at Fallston Library on 4/19/10.

**Old Business:**

1. **Lighting at Harford Sanitation** – Benfield Electric re-focused the lights downward resulting in reduced glare.
2. **Tour of Conowingo Dam** – The date is Friday May 7, at 3pm. Jane Howe circulated a list of attendees and a wait list. She asked everyone to reconfirm their place on the list.
3. **Darlington Park public meeting** – Rick Howe attended. Feedback came mostly from adjacent homeowners who were concerned about fencing.

4. **Harley Davidson** – Bob Riley asked about the enclosure for the new dyno machine and possible cutting of more (13) trees on the property that are marked with yellow. Billy Boniface said he will stop by to see what is going on. Sheriff Jesse Bane asked for enabling legislation to assign authority to the Sheriff's Office to enforce the current noise standards. It passed and becomes effective on July 1.
5. **New Members** – The DDCC still has space for new members.
6. **Future Guests** – Rich Norling of DNR and Ben Cox with Arden McClune from Parks & Rec were all suggested.
7. **Bridge over Deer Creek on Route 161** – Jim Murphy asked if the paint chip test results were back yet. Rich Norling will ask Jane Walker.

**New Business:**

1. Jim Murphy asked about the Historical Sign on Route 1 regarding Conowingo Village. Should it be on the Cecil County side? Charles Day gave a brief history of the area. Cecil citizens are free to put up any (legal) signs they desire.

**Good of the Council:**

~ Joni Nugent asked if smoking was allowed in County parks. She also asked about policy on cleaning up after pets, especially in a playground area. Jane Howe will find out.

~ Jim Murphy asked about the graffiti on the water tower at Conowingo Village. Sgt. Thomas will look into it. Don Thomas commented that the DVFC is supposed to get/keep a fire hydrant on the property. The suggestion was made to formally request water resources for fire safety while FERC is relicensing the Conowingo Dam facility.

~ Jim also asked about the traffic back up at the landfill.

~ The Friends of the Darlington library will be selling Eastern Red Bud trees on Earth Day, April 22.

~ David Craig will be at the Darlington Library for a community chat on Monday, April 26, from 6-7:30pm.

~ The DVFC will host rabies shot clinic on April 25 from 2-4pm.

~ The Dublin Country Fair will be held on May 1 from 10am -3pm.

~ The Darlington Herb Festival will be held at the DVFC on June 5 from 10am-4pm.

~ The Darlington Independence Day Parade and Celebration will be held on Saturday, June 26. The parade steps off at 5:30pm.

~ The Darlington Apple Festival will be featured in the fall issue of Enviro News.

**Next Meeting:** May 19, 2010 at 7PM, Wilson Center.

**Adjournment:** Shirley Thompson made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Joni Nugent. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Howe